

Spring Homeschool Jamboree Program Topics Friday, March 28, 2014

Bark and Buds (Outside) Students will take an easy stroll and learn to identify some native trees by their bark and shape, before the leaves emerge! We'll use rubbings and sketches to record what we've learned. Dress for the weather!

Birds of Prey (Inside) Do you know what kinds of birds are raptors? Can owls really turn their head all the way around? In this class, we will see live birds of prey up close and learn where they live, what they eat, and other interesting facts about their behavior.

Boating Safety (Outside) Join Conservation Officers Jeff Wells and Jet Quillen in a brief introduction and overview of the duties of a conservation officer and water/boater safety. This program will involve both class discussion and demonstration with students on a canoe without ever getting wet. Each participant will learn about general safety concerns around water and water related activities.

Garden Folklore and Kitchen Gardening (Inside) Explore how plants were used in the past, what myths and stories surround many plants, and how they are still used today. Students will learn how to grow common, healthy herbs and sprouts right in their own kitchen windows. Students will take home knowledge, fun plant facts, as well as some herbs to help start their kitchen garden.

Insects are Cool! (Inside) Come hear local entomologist John Thieme discuss why insects are so incredibly awesome. He will cover many different aspects about their fascinating lives including where to find them, what they eat, how they protect themselves, how they communicate, and some amazing things they do. He will also talk about their unique and important roles in the world, and will bring some interesting specimens to share with everyone.

Maple Syruping (Outside) Learn the basics of making maple syrup on a small scale in Indiana! We will cover pioneer and native American history, time of year, tools and equipment, tapping, collecting, cooking, filtering, testing and bottling, and best of all, tasting!

Mathematical Patterns in Nature (Outside) Many of the repeating patterns reflected in nature have a mathematical component. From the number of petals to the branching structure of woody plants, to different types of symmetry in insects, animals, fish, birds and shells, this guided hike will be an exploration in recognizing the mathematical patterns that can be found in nature.

Nature Journaling (Inside/Outside) Nature Journaling makes you a better observer, naturalist, and artist. We will discuss and demonstrate various techniques and approaches for your journal. After a short hike, you can log your first entry. We will provide a journal for you to keep.

Pioneer Fire Starting (Outside) Have you ever wondered how the Pioneers started a fire without matches? Join us as we explore the myth and reality of starting a fire with primitive methods. We will even try our hand at striking a light with flint and steel.

Reptiles and Amphibians (Inside) Do you know the difference between a lizard and a salamander? Are snakes really slimy? In this hands-on session we will learn what makes reptiles and amphibians unique by taking a close look at some of these interesting animals.

Tree Climbing (Outside) (Maximum 12 students per session) Get a bird's eye view of the park while getting to know your trees. Join us "Up a tree without a paddle". Learn to climb a tree using arborist equipment. *Due to the popularity of this class, please do not choose this topic if you've already done Tree Climbing in previous Jamborees, so that everyone can get a chance to participate.

Water & You (Inside) From brushing your teeth to bathing your dog to the food you eat, you use water every day, multiple times a day. Do you know where this water comes from? How can you do your part to ensure you have water to use when you're an adult? And how does Eagle Creek Park play a role in the water you use? Come join us to learn about the water cycle, home water use/waste, and local water resources.

Wildflower Hike (Outside) After a long winter, the first flowers of spring are a welcome sight! On this hike we will search for the earliest spring wildflowers already in bloom, as well as the leaves and signs of things to come.